



Providence Forge Presbyterian Church

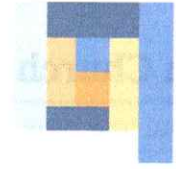
to further God's kingdom on earth, one soul at a time

9310 Townsend Road | Providence Forge, VA 23140 | (804) 966-2079 | www.PFPC.org



Sunday, December 8, 2024

Advent Series: Words for the Beginning



WE CAN'T GO ALONE

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

Betty Batkins

WELCOME

Barbara Lore

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Nathan, Laura, Claire, Paige, Will
and Lucy Mae Richards

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In a world that is lonely,

People: we will save a seat for you.

Leader: In a world that is anxious,

People: we will light candles against the gloom.

Leader: In a world that is weary,

People: we will sing songs of joy and truth.

Leader: I am not alone.

People: We are not alone.

Leader: For here in this place, God is weaving us together.

People: Light the candles! Sing with joy!

We are a three-cord strand, not easily broken.

*SONG OF PRAISE

#9 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: I have tried to make my own way.

I have tried to lace my own shoes, to build my own house, to kindle my own faith. I have said a thousand times, "turn back," as if I am fine on my own. But the days are long and I am forgetful. I need your help. Can you remind me?

People: We will remind you of this everlasting truth:

You are not alone. Where you go, God goes.

You are held in grace. Trust in this good news.

Leader: Thanks be to God! I remember. I believe.

People: Now we need your help.

We, too, have tried to make our own way. We have tried to lace

our own shoes, to build our own houses, to kindle our own faiths. We have said a thousand times, "turn back," as if we are fine on our own. But the days are long and we are forgetful. We need your help. Can you remind us?

Leader: I will remind you of this everlasting truth:

You are not alone. Where you go, God goes.

You are held in grace. Trust in this good news.

People: Thanks be to God! We remember. We believe.

Alleluia! Amen.

*◇RESPONSE TO GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

#579 Gloria Patri

*◇PASSING OF THE PEACE

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Rev. Crystal Varner Parker

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Ruth 1; Pew Bible p. 210

SECOND LESSON

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12;
Pew Bible p. 538

SERMON "We Can't Go Alone"

Rev. Crystal Varner Parker

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a with-us God:

**a God who walks with us in the valley,
dances with us on the mountaintop,
sings with us through the night
and rejoices in the morning.**

We believe that this with-us God

**wired us for relationship,
saying to creation on the very first week,
"Humans should not be alone."**

Therefore, in an effort to be who God called us to be,

**we strive to live like the Trinity—
connected, united, and centered.**

We believe in the power of community.

We commit to learning each other's names.

We choose to journey with each other, like Ruth with Naomi.

And we remember that no one can go through life alone.

Thanks be to God, for lighting our way.

SONG OF RESPONSE

#438 Blest Be the Tie That Binds

◇PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

WE OFFER OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

Betty Batkins

***◇RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

#592 Doxology

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

#8 Lift Up Your Heads,

***SONG OF SENDING**

Ye Mighty Gates

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Betty Batkins

Worship liturgy and prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC

PROVIDENCE FORGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Crystal Varner Parker
Administrative Assistant	Kristel Lamp
Organist & Choir Director	Melody Raef
Sunshine Nursery School Director	Cathy Davis
Church Treasurer	Paul Robinson

THE SESSION 2024

Ruth Hopke	Clerk of Session (2024)
Pete Adamson	Administration (2024-2026)
Jamie Gray	Administration (2022-2024)
Ayars Lore	Administration (2022-2024)
Nathan Richards	Administration (2023-2025)
Paul Davis	Christian Life (2023-2025)
Patricia Robinson	Christian Life (2024-2026)
Mary-Catherine Sheridan	Christian Life (2024-2026)
Davis Gammon	Community & Mission (2024-2026)
Jo White	Community & Mission (2022-2024)